

Appl. No. 10/764,341

REMARKS

Claims 27-45 are pending in the present application. are pending in the present application. By the forgoing amendment, claims 27-30, 34-35, and 39-43 have been cancelled. Claims 31 and 36-38 have been amended. Consequently, claims 31-33, 36-38, and 44-45 remain pending for the Examiner's consideration. The Office Action is considered non-final per a telephone interview with the Examiner dated January 17, 2007. The following remarks support applicant's assertion that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 27-30, 34-35, 38, and 40-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and/or 35 U.S.C. 103. Applicant has cancelled these claims, with the exception of claim 38, which has been amended to incorporate all limitations of a dependent claim (claim 39) indicated in the Office Action as allowable (see discussion below).

In the Office Action, claims 31-33, 36, 37, 39, and 44-45 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Them amendments made herein are made solely to address the objection and incorporate limitations of base claims. The following table summarizes the amendments made herein in this regard.

Amendments to claim 31	Incorporates all limitations of claim 27
Amendments to claim 36	Incorporates all limitations of claim 27
Amendments to claim 37	Incorporates all limitations of claim 27
Amendments to claim 38	Incorporates all limitations from claim 39

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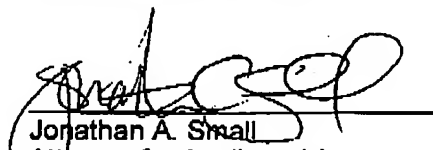
Conclusion

Applicant has cancelled those claims rejected in the Office Action, and rewritten those claims objected to in the Office Action in order to incorporate the subject matter of their base claims. In so doing, applicant appreciates and accepts the indication of allowability in the Office Action. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for this application in light of the amendments and remarks provided above is respectfully requested.

By action taken here, Applicant in no way intends to or causes any surrender of any subject matter or range of equivalents beyond that strictly required to patentably distinguish the claimed invention as a whole over the prior art. Applicant expressly reserves without dedication all such subject matter and equivalents that may fall in the range between Applicant's literal claim recitations and combinations taught or suggested by the prior art.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution and allowance of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-941-4470.

Respectfully submitted,



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